T/SOF/22/2/1

A L D E R M A S T O N 1963.

Statement by the National Working Group of the Committee of 100. 16th. March.

'The success of this year's Aldermaston March depends upon its culminating in a more effective demonstration of the strength of the Nuclear Disarmament movement than it has done in previous years. We intend to hold a Public Assembly in Parliament Square and Whitehall in order to make a more direct challenge to the nuclear policy of the government, and the consciences of the people of this country, than can possibly be achieved by the rally-picnic in Hyde Park.

As the March enters Parliament Square the Committee's banners will take up a position in the centre of the Square, and a public assembly will begin. If the police close the Square and divert the March the assembly, or assemblies, will take place facing the police cordons.

We are demonstrating because:

We are not just opposed to British nuclear weapons,

We are opposed to Polaris and all weapons of mass destruction, East and West.

We are not interested in so-called 'steps to peace' which compromise with nuclear weapons.

We call for unilateral action by the United States and Russia, as well as by Britain, to end the arms race.

We look to peoples to make peace, rather than to government leaders to negotiate settlements.

We offer non-violent resistance as an alternative means of defence for peoples who renounce nuclear weapons.'

Committee of 100,
13 Goodwin Street,
London N.4
ARChway 1239.

Minutes of the National Working Group - Saturday 16th. March, 1963, held at 87, Westbourne Terrace, London W.2.

1. Holy Loch to London March: It was agreed to leave discussion of this until next meeting. It is to be suggested that the March start at Whitsun and finish in London on Hiroshima Day. The need to link Holy Loch with Barrow and the placing of the orders for the Polaris submarines was also raised and Brian Manning reported that the N.W. Committee was already considering action. A broadsheet was to be produced giving the position of Polaris in relation to British policy, and also the economic aspects. The ultimate aim of the Campaign would be to stop production, and the initial approach would be the setting-up of groups within industry and general dock-gate activity, and eventually, if production went ahead, direct obstruction. The need of the government to mobilise a highly skilled labour force, any interference of which could have immediate repercussions, was also emphasised. At all times the constructive alternatives to the expenditure on Polaris would be given.

2. Marham: The East Anglian C.N.D. Area Council were supporting the demonstration and encouraging CND groups in the area to give support in any way they saw possible. It was proposed to enter the Base, surmounting any obstacles that might be in the way, such as fences or barbed wire, except where violence against people will be likely to take place, and there must be no malicious damage of property. All actions were to be taken as collectively as possible. The Jaywick Caravan will be the Committee's focal point both in Swaffam and at the Base, though briefing will be primarily by word of mouth. The approach will be made by the Narborough Road following the Dutch Auction in Swaffam Market Place. The auction will be quite legal, and as money is paid over stickers will be given in exchange. There is no intention of civil disobedience at this stage unless the uaction site is refused. It is recommended that people make alternative arrangements for transport in case public transport is interferred with. 30,000 leaflets were to be produced initially, and regional Committees were to be encouraged to produce their own leaflets.

3. C.N.D. National Council meeting: Mike Harwood and Brian Manning had attended this on behalf of the Committee. It was reported to the meeting that general enthusiasm for the March was very low. The Committee's viewpoint was that the real problem of the March was the culmination, and suggested that the March should end with a public assembly in Parliament Square, and for those who wished it some kind of meeting in Westminster Abbey. The National Council said that arrangements were being made for church services, but rejected the proposal for an assembly on the grounds that they were of the opinion that violence might easily break out and they were not prepared to take the responsibility for it, and also that police permission would not be given for the Assembly. The N.W. Committee had discussed this and were of the opinion that an effective demonstration was needed for the culmination of the March to provide a more positive challenge on the nuclear issues. The March is planned to pass through Parliament Square and after some discussion, the decision of the last National Meeting in regard to an assembly and the mandate given to the Working Group being considered, it was agreed that a public assembly should take place and that this should be announced on Tuesday, 19th. March. This would allow for details to be sent to all regional secretaries and to National C.N.D. The full statement is given below. It was also announced that the Jaywick Caravan would be available for use by the Committee throughout the March.

4. International Sub-Committee: The situation in France was briefly commented upon and it was stated that there was an urgent need for people, especially those able to speak French, to support the march at Lyon at Easter, which would provide an excellent opportunity for Committee supporters to meet members of the Action Civique Non-Violente.
The letter from the Canadian CND was discussed and it was reported that the National CND did not intend to hold any sort of vigil or demonstration on the grounds that it would not be right to interfere with the Canadian General Election and any demonstartion might, in fact, have adverse effects. Our attitude towards the U.S. Government was also considered. It was agreed that Peter Cadogan write to London region CNDsuggesting demonstrations outside both the U.S. and Canadian embassies, and that the national and London secretaries raise the matter with working groups in the London area.

5. Bulletin: The first issue was due to appear on Friday 22nd. March, thereafter it would be produced on the 1st. and the 15th. of each month. It was agreed that a charge should be made for the Bulletin and this was left to the secretary to calculate.

6. National Meeting Agenda: Agreed that this be left to the next meeting when the two Chairmen would be present.